

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 112346
ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 SP-02
L-01 NSAE-00 /030 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:WNHOWELL:PDW
APPROVED BY P:MR. NEWSOM
NEA:HSSAUNDERS

-----007020 031301Z /43

P 031254Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 112346

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR, SY, JO, XF

SUBJECT: JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN AMBASSADORS CALL ON
UNDERSECRETARY

1. AMBASSADORS SALAH OF JORDAN AND KABBANI OF SYRIA MADE
JOINT INTRODUCTORY CALL MAY 1 ON UNDERSECRETARY NEWSOM.

2. IN COURSE OF GENERAL CONVERSATION, KABBANI IN LOW-KEY
WAY EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT WHITE HOUSE CEREMONY MAY 1 ON
OCCASION OF ANNIVERSARY OF ISRAEL'S FOUNDING. NEWSOM
REPLIED THAT HE WAS AWARE OF FEELINGS AMONG ARAB AMBASSADORS
AND FELT THAT THEY HAD SHOWN GREAT WISDOM IN NOT RPT NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 112346

RAISING QUESTION OF WHITE HOUSE OBSERVANCE FORMALLY. HE
STRESSED THAT NEITHER CEREMONY NOR MISINTERPRETATIONS OVER
THE PAST WEEKEND OF PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENTS SHOULD BE TAKEN
TO INDICATE ANY CHANGE IN U.S. POLICY TOWARD THE PURSUIT
OF A JUST AND LASTING PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. KABBANI
CONCURRED THAT IF THE RESULTS OF U.S. POLICY ARE GOOD,
CEREMONIAL AFFAIRS ARE NOT IMPORTANT.

3. REPEATING THAT THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY ARE FOLLOWING WELL-ESTABLISHED LINE TOWARD NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, UNDERSECRETARY EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. POSITION INCLUDED SUPPORT FOR RESOLUTION 242 AS GENERALLY UNDERSTOOD AT THE

TIME OF ITS ENACTMENT IN 1967. KABBANI SAID HE HAD SEEN THE SECRETARY ON TELEVISION OVER THE WEEKEND AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE CLARITY OF HIS POSITION.

4. SALAH REFERRED TO PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY FONMIN DAYAN IN THE U.S. AND EXPRESSED SOME CONFUSION OVER THE MESSAGE DAYAN WAS TRYING TO CONVEY WHEN HE SPOKE ABOUT ADOPTING PRINCIPLES FOR A SETTLEMENT. NEWSOM REPLIED THAT IT MUST BE KEPT IN MIND THAT WE HAVE BEFORE US AT THE PRESENT TIME TWO AGENDA ITEMS: (1) AN AGREED DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES FOR A COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT AND; (2) THE APPLICATION OF BROAD PRINCIPLES TO AND A PRACTICAL NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK FOR WEST BANK/GAZA ISSUE. HE ADDED THAT IT IS THE U.S. HOPE THAT AS WE PROCEED IN DEFINING THOSE PRINCIPLES AND THE NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK, JORDAN WILL FIND IT POSSIBLE TO JOIN THE DISCUSSIONS. DAYAN, HE BELIEVED, WAS POSING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER IT IS PREFERABLE TO WORK OUT BROAD PRINCIPLES AND THEN PAUSE TO APPLY THEM TO THE WEST BANK AND GAZA OR TO WORK FROM THE OTHER END OF THE EQUATION. SHOULD THE PARTIES, FOR EXAMPLE, BEGIN WITH

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 112346

THEIR CONCEPTIONS OF THE KINDS OF PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS THEY PREFER IN THESE REGIONS AND EXTRAPOLATE FROM THEM TO PRODUCE BROAD PRINCIPLES. IT IS QUITE COMMON, NEWSOM CONCLUDED, FOR NEGOTIATORS TO TRY TO VISUALIZE HOW PRINCIPLES WILL BE APPLIED IN PRACTICE.

5. SALAH INQUIRED WHETHER THE GAP BETWEEN U.S. AND ISRAELI OUTLOOKS HAD BEEN NARROWED IN RECENT DAYS? NEWSOM SAID THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT THIS HAD BEEN ACHIEVED IN THE VANCE-DAYAN TALKS AND HAD THE IMPRESSION THE DISCUSSIONS HAD BEEN LARGELY EXPLORATORY. DAYAN, HE OBSERVED, HAS SOME IDEAS OF HIS OWN BUT HAS TO CHECK THEM OUT WITH PRIMIN BEGIN. HE MAY HAVE DONE SO TO SOME DEGREE WHEN THE TWO MEN MET IN NEW YORK, BUT MORE EXTENDED DISCUSSIONS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TO INVOLVE THE CABINET WHEN BEGIN RETURNS TO ISRAEL. NEWSOM SAID THE U.S. IS NOT OPPOSED TO DISCUSSING THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF PRINCIPLES IN SPECIFIC CASES, BUT THAT NEITHER EGYPT NOR ISRAEL HAS YET SPELLED OUT WHAT IT FORESEES IN THE CONTEXT OF A SOLUTION AND THAT NOTHING DRAMATIC HAD TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST WEEK.

6. KABBANI FELT IT UNFORTUNATE THAT ACHIEVEMENT HAS BEEN LIMITED AFTER THE LENGTHY EFFORTS TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM AND NOTED SYRIAN FEARS THAT ISRAEL IS SEEKING MERELY TO STRING OUT THE TALKS. NEWSOM, RECALLING HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE MIDDLE EAST OVER THE YEARS, SAID HE PERCEIVES FORCES IN ISRAEL TODAY WHICH SEE THE PRESENT AS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR A SOLUTION AND ARE DISTURBED BY THE SUDDEN

REINTERPRETATION OF RESOLUTION 242. AS A RESULT, THERE APPEARS TO BE A CONTINUAL RETHINKING OF THE SITUATION IN ISRAEL AND THIS FLUIDITY IS A HOPEFUL SIGN IF IT PRODUCES RESULTS. THERE IS, HE CONCLUDED, MORE GRAPPLING WITH THE BASIC ISSUES ON THE PART OF EGYPT AND ISRAEL TODAY THAN IN ANY PREVIOUS PERIOD IN THE HISTORY OF THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 112346

CONFLICT. VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, MEETING REPORTS, PEACE PLANS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE112346
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WNHOWELL:PDW
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780188-0715
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780597/aaaadenr.tel
Line Count: 137
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 322a23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2802674
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JORDANIAN AND SYRIAN AMBASSADORS CALL ON UNDERSECRETARY
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, MOPS, SY, JO, XF, US, (NEWSOM, DAVID D), (SALAH, ABDULLAH), (KABBANI, SABAH)
To: AMMAN DAMASCUS
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/322a23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014